Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: EGEN, YU

SUBJECT: EXIMBANK FINANCING FOR KOSOVO THERMAL POWER PROJECT

REF: STATE 048799 DATED FEBRUARY IN 1976

1. EXIMBANK HAS COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF REQUESTS BY KOMBINAT KOSOVO AND US SUPPLIERS (WESTINGHOUSE, BABCOCK AND WILCOX AND COMBUSTION ENGINEERING) TO RECONSIDER THE PRELIMINARY COMMITMENTS (PC'S) TO SUPPORT FINANCING OF US EXPORTS FOR THE TWO 300 MW POWER PLANT UNITS IN KOSOVO (SEE REFTEL). EXIMBANK HAS AMENDED THE TERM OF ITS PC'S IN ORDER TO MAKE THE US FINANCING PACKAGE COMPETITIVE WITH THAT OF FOREIGN SUPPLIERS AND TO REFLECT CHANGED FINANCING NEEDS OF THE PROJECT. THERE WERE SEVERAL BASIC CHANGES IN TERMS WHICH SHOULD ENHANCE THE US OFFER, AND THESE ARE APPLIED IN THE SAME MANNER TO THE RESPECTIVE PC GIVEN TO EACH SUPPLIER. (CE'S BID IS COMPETITIVE WITH B&W): (A) IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE PERCENTAGE OF FINANCING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WOULD CARRY A FIXED INTEREST RATE EXIMBANK HAS SUB-

STANTIALLYINCREASED ITS DIRECT LOAN PARTICIPATION FROM 30 PCT TO 45 PCT. (B) CASH DOWN PAYMENT WAS REDUCED FROM 15 PCT TO 10 PCT. (C) IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE NECESSITY OF THE BORROWER RAISING UNGUARANTEED FUNDS UNDER THE EXIMBANK CREDIT, PARTICIPATING US BANK FUNDS WILL BE FULLY GUARANTEED UP TO 45 PCT OF TOTAL US COSTS. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE BORROWER TO MAXIMIZE THE LARGE AMOUNT OF UNGUARANTEED FUNDS IT IS ATTEMPTING TO RAISE OUTSIDE OF THE EXIMBANK CREDIT, FOR LOCAL COST FINANCING. (D) THE INTEREST RATE ON THE EXIMBANK CREDIT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 9.25 PCT FROM THE PREVIOUS 9.50 PCT WHICH IS NORMALLY APPLIED UNDER EXIMBANK STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR THIS REPAYMENT TERM OF 15 YEARS FROM THE EXIMBANK CREDIT AUTHORIZATION DATE TO FINAL REPAYMENT. OTHER FEES AND CONDITIONS REMAIN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS IN THE PREVIOUS PC'S.

- 2. WHEN CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE, THE 15 YEAR REPAYMENT TERM (INCLUDING GRACE PERIOD OF 5 YEARS), THE INCREASED EXIMBANK PARTICIPATION, THE REDUCED CASH PAYMENT, THE 90 PCT COVERAGE OF EXPORT FINANCING AND THE REDUCED INTEREST RATE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE FINANCING PACKAGE. EVEN IF INTEREST RATES OF COMPETING OFFERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD EMERGE AS SLIGHTLY LOWER, EXIMBANK HAS TAKEN THIS FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPING A PACKAGE WHICH IS CLOSE TO THE COSTS OF THE COMPETITION BUT ALSO IS STRUCTURED TO MEET OTHER NEEDS DESCRIBED BY THE YUGOSLAV BORROWERS AS PROBLEMS IN COMPLETING THE FINANCING FOR THIS PROJECT.
- 3. THE INFORMATION IN THIS MESSAGE IS ONLY TO KEEP THE EMBASSY ADVISED, SINCE US SUPPLIERS WHO ARE THE APPLICANTS FOR THE EXIMBANK PC'S HAVE REQUESTED THAT THEY BE THE PARTIES TO COMMUNICATE THE REVISED EXIMBANK SUPPORT TO THE YUGOSLAV BUYER AS PART OF THEIR NEXT COMMERCIAL PRESENTATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SUPPLIERS PLAN TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BUYER DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 15. KISSINGER

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